Public Works Department at least in respect of tanks whose revenue is Rs. 5,000 and upwards.

Mr. Venkatachar.—The capacity of a tank should not be increased unless there is certain prospect of more lands being irrigated. It is very difficult for the ryots to prevent the accumulation of silt. The Government should issue strict rules regarding distribution of water and prevent interference with the channel. It is impossible to expect the people to combine and arrange these things for themselves.

Reply of Government.—As far as possible, remedies are being provided but the ryots should take more interest in the maintenance of tanks and channels and prevent waste of water. The Tank Panchayet Bill has been introduced with a view to provide the people with greater facilities to overcome such inconveniences.

SUBJECT No. 90.

Removal of silt from minor tanks.

Mr. A. Narasimhiengar, Sagar Taluk.

Summary of discussion.—Several minor tanks in the malnad are now in a deplorable condition for want of repairs. They are silted up and consequently the underground springs are closed up. Unless the accumulated silt is removed, the repairs done to these tanks will not be of any use. It is therefore prayed that the silt of a few tanks at least may be cleared at Government cost for the benefit of cultivation. It is not possible for the ryots to remove the deposits of dried and rotten leaves from these springs, which are known as *neerkannus*. If the Chief Engineer would visit the locality, the member would show some of these tanks to him, when he would be able to see how hopeless it would be for the ryots to undertake to repair them.

Reply of Government.—The member should send a list of a few such tanks to the Chief Engineer who would then be able to study the question on the spot and make the necessary suggestions to Government. The subject is noted for consideration along with the question of malnad tanks generally.

SUBJECT No. 91.

Supervision of works executed by revenue agency.

Messrs. Rangappa and Ramappa, Srinivaspur Taluk.

Summary of discussion.—The present class of Tank Inspectors may be replaced by better paid and more qualified men and an Assistant Engineer attached to the district to supervise works executed by revenue agency. In the Srinivaspur Taluk, a tank work that was partly executed (Bychepallikunte) had to be given up as the estimate was grossly defective and drawn up by a Tank Inspector who did not know anything about grades.

Reply of Government.—The Tank Inspectors that are now appointed are properly qualified and have received some professional training. During the last distress

several instances of such defective execution of works having come to the notice of the Government and the Revenue Commissioner, the question of improving the mode of checking these works is engaging the attention of the Chief Engineer and the Revenue Commissioner.

SUBJECT No. 92.

Alteration of rules governing remission under breached tanks.

Messrs. Gundu Rao and Ummannaiya, Bowringpet Taluk, and Raghavachar, Mysore Taluk.

Summary of discussion.—Dry assessment may be levied on wet lands under breached tanks instead of half wet assessment, as the latter has been a great hardship to the poor ryots. The concession may be limited to tanks breached by accident and not through the neglect of the ryots. There is now no period fixed within which the restoration of the breached tank should be taken up. The Ramsagar tank which breached some years ago has not been restored as yet and the ryots are made to pay half the wet assessment though they cannot raise any wet crops. Unless therefore the tank is likely to be restored within a year or two after its breach, the present concessions are not sufficient. They were not in favour of a fresh classification of lands being made after restoration of the tank and of the assessment being revised.

Reply of Government.—Remission of half the wet assessment has been allowed according to long-standing *mamool*. As a rule, a newly breached tank is restored at the earliest opportunity. If dry rates are to be imposed while the tank remains breached, then a reclassification of the lands irrigated by it will have to be made after it is restored, which may result in an ultimate increase of assessment.

SUBJECT No. 93.

Remission of assessment.

1. Mr. Adeppa, Tumkur Taluk.
2 Mr. Srinivasa Rao Pavagada Taluk.

Summary of discussion.—1. Remission of half assessment may invariably be granted when tanks do not fill.

2. Even in years of ordinary rainfall all tanks do not fill as the rains are not uniformly distributed, but yet full wet assessment has to be paid on the atchkats. It is requested that remission of half assessment may be granted on lands below tanks that fail to get even a fourth of its normal supply.

Reply of Government.—The rates fixed by the Survey Department are based on the average produce for the whole period of the settlement and allowance is made for such abnormal conditions in fixing them. No such remission can therefore be granted as a matter of course. Provision has however been made in the Tank Panchayet Bill for grant of remissions under certain conditions in such cases.